

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Michel GARRAIT et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1623  
)  
Application No.: 09/350,152 ) Examiner: T. Oh  
)  
Filed: July 9, 1999 )  
)  
For: PROCESS FOR THE )  
PREPARATION OF )  
HYDROXYMETHYLBUTYRIC )  
ACID )  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 U.S.C. 1.116**

In reply to the final Office Action dated August 23, 2002, the period for reply having been extended for one month by a request for extension and fee payment filed concurrently herewith, please amend the above-identified application, without prejudice, as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

16. A process according to claim 15, wherein the molar quantity of sulphuric acid relative to the 2-hydroxy-4-methylthiobutyronitrile is between 0.7 and 0.85.

17. A process according to claim 15, wherein the medium of the hydrating step (a) contains less than 5% by weight of 2-hydroxy-4-methylthiobutyric acid.

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